



DCCM

DC CHAMBER MUSICIANS

Musicians' Guide

to DCCM

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Document Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Description	Reason for Change
4.0	August 2019	Bob Myers	Pricing & Service Offering Changes	Updates for 2019-20 season
5.0	September 2021	Bob Myers	General reorganization and clarification. Addition of Member Forum service.	Updates for the 2021-22 season.
5.3	July 2023	Bob Myers	New concert participation policies, increased coaching subsidy.	Updates for the 2023-24 season.
6.0	April 2025	Bob Myers	Major Overhaul	Preliminary updates for 2025-26 season
6.1	August 2025	Bob Myers	Season Updates	Final updates for the 2025-26 season

Change Log

Significant changes from version 5.0 to 6.1

- Major reorganization, migration of lots of material to web resources.
- Replacement of master classes with additional private coaching subsidy.
- Important changes to the [Legal Stuff](#) Section
- Updates dues, fees, etc.
- Significant updates to video and privacy policies.

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Introduction

The DC Chamber Musicians (DCCM) is a community of classical musicians who share a passion for playing and performing chamber music. While the spirit of this group emphasizes an approach that is collegial, congenial, and non-competitive, there's sincere focus on quality of music production and development of collaborative, ensemble playing skills. DCCM offers an array of services suitable for all chamber musicians above the beginner level, whether already in an established ensemble or seeking to form an ensemble.

Summary of Services, Features and Benefits

For All Musicians

- Membership in a community of musicians who take their chamber music seriously.
- Discounts on our quarterly chamber music play-ins and our orchestra concerts.
- Full access to our searchable, attribute rich, chamber musician directory.
- Access to our directory of professional chamber music coaches.
- Access to rehearsal facilities at affordable rates.
- One complimentary ticket for each member to all DCCM public concerts.

For Musicians in Formed Ensembles

- *Note: Only for ensembles with musicians at the intermediate skill level and above.*
- Performance opportunities at DCCM Outreach events (no additional charge).
- Performance opportunities at DCCM sponsored public concerts (for an additional fee, see below re public concerts for current rates and what's included).
- For outreach and public concert performances, each ensemble may receive up to a two-hour coaching session with DCCM's Artistic Advisor.
- For public performances, ensembles also receive a generous subsidy for a two-hour coaching session with one of the coaches listed in our chamber music coach directory, or a coach of your choice.

!!!Legal Matters!!!

You are **STRONGLY** encouraged to read the [Legal Stuff](#) section. By joining DCCM, you consent to the definitions, terms and conditions stipulated there.

Questions?

We've made every effort to anticipate your questions. The entries in the table of contents are hot-linked to each section, and there are intra-document links (blue, underlined, italicized text) making it easy to jump to an area of interest. DCCOS also maintains a member website (see below) Before submitting questions about DCCM operations, please consult this document and check the member website. If you then can't find it, send an e-mail inquiry to Info@DCCOS1.org.

Membership Dues and Service Prices (effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

Annual Membership Dues	\$40
Membership year aligns with subscription year, not season.	
Participation in Public Concerts ¹	\$60
per musician per concert	
Participation in Outreach Performances	FREE
Participation in Play-Ins, per Event	\$26
after application of DCCM member discount	
Rehearsal Room Rentals:	\$35 per hour
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For standard rooms at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church• A larger room with two pianos (Peter Marshall Hall) is available at \$50 per hour.• Additional facilities available in the area, visit the Rehearsal Room section for more info	
Coaching Services (List Price), per hour	\$90 to \$120
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before applicable available subsidies for performing ensembles• Minimum two-hour coaching	
Coaching Subsidy	\$180
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For ensembles appearing in public concerts only, proof of payment required.	

Member Website

The member website is at [Member Website](#). The website provides a wealth of information resources and a wide variety of self-service options. The menus should be self-explanatory; additional instructions are provided as needed. Please save or bookmark the URL and consult the members services website regularly. We welcome suggestions for improvement of the website, please e-mail your ideas to WebAdm@DCCOS1.org.

Making the Most of Your Membership

How best to avail yourself of DCCM's services and benefits is described [HERE](#).

¹ Financial Accommodation Policy: While the annual membership dues cannot be waived or abated, DCCOS does have a practice of reducing or waiving fees for concert participation for those for whom the fee poses a financial challenge. Please contact, in confidence, ExecDir@DCCOS1.org to request consideration of fee reductions or a waiver.

Forming Ensembles

DCCM provides a wide variety of services which can be of benefit to all musicians – including those looking to find fellow musicians with whom to build ensembles –but please be aware that several service offerings are *primarily intended for musicians already in pre-formed ensembles*. DCCM management does not group musicians together or otherwise directly assist in the formation of longer-term ensembles. The dynamics of personalities, styles, and skill levels are too complex and require your personal involvement. From time to time, on request, DCCM management may identify available candidates for existing ensembles to assist in completing or restoring a desired ensemble configuration.

About the DC Chamber Musicians

The DC Chamber Musicians is part of the DC Concert Orchestra Society (DCCOS) which operates three programs

- The DC Concert Orchestra (DCCO)
- The DC Chamber Musicians (DCCM), the performance chamber music track, and
- The Classical Musicians of Metro DC (CM-MDC), the casual chamber music track

You can learn more about our DCCO and CM-MDC programs at www.dccos.org/join (there's a very handy comparison chart of the two available there). If you love chamber music but aren't ready for the "next steps" of DCCM, consider joining CM-MDC. There is no real benefit to being a paying member of both DCCM and CM-MDC. Please consult the chart mentioned to choose the one that's right for you.

Culture and Approach of the DC Chamber Musicians

DCCOS strives to create a welcoming community for chamber and orchestra musicians, where your peers are more than your musical companions for an afternoon, they become a part of your extended family. Our musicians come from all communities and walks of life. Through our programs, and related social events, DCCOS works to foster that sense of community. Musicians are notoriously their own worst critics; we all wish to put on the best performance possible. This is best achieved when all enter into rehearsals, events and concerts in a spirit that is collegial, congenial, non-competitive, and supportive of your colleagues' best efforts.

Outside of DCCM sponsored performances and play-ins, the membership base of DCCM is decentralized, joining together in ensembles for rehearsals and performance preparation at places and times of their own choice. These dispersed members find each other through our directory services, participating in DCCOS sponsored events, and attending our public concerts. DCCM encourages a culture where there is joy and excitement in the process of honing our musical skills and performances.

DCCOS Corporate Mission Statement

The DC Concert Orchestra Society offers a full range of member support services and musical opportunities from casual play-ins to skilled chamber and orchestral performances for non-professional adult musicians. We advance and celebrate our diverse musical heritage through our programming, our people, and our audiences across the metropolitan region to share in a lifetime of music.

DCCM Vision Statement

DCCM aspires to be the most comprehensive network of non-professional chamber musicians in the DC metropolitan region. We offer a full suite of resources to support chamber ensembles, including rehearsal venues, coaching, and performance opportunities to further musical growth for our members and build diverse audiences.

DCCOS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement – “Our Commitment”

DCCOS seeks to build bridges through music by welcoming and serving members and audiences of all communities. Our programs draw on traditional, modern and contemporary genres with a focus on music that has been overlooked in the past, and emerging talent who will shape the future of classical music. We bring these programs to neighborhoods throughout the region to inspire established constituencies and engage a new generation. Whether you are a musician or a fan, we invite you to join us in this commitment.

History – a short history of DCCM is available [HERE](#).

Board, Management & Staff List is available [HERE](#).

Social Media

The DC Concert Orchestra Society operates three social media sites in support of our musical programs. You can learn more about them [HERE](#).

We invite you to please follow, friend or subscribe to all three services, and to share feeds with your friends, family and colleagues. It keeps us in the public eye, grows and strengthens the DCCOS community, and helps build audiences for our public concerts.

Our Program Offerings - In Depth

Chamber Musician Directory

The chamber musician directory is a rich attribute database of all participating chamber musician members of both of DCCOS' chamber music programs. Participation is voluntary, you can elect to opt-out of sharing your information in the directory when completing the survey. Details of what and when your information is shared with other active members of the DCCOS chamber music programs are available [HERE](#).

Chamber Music Coach Directory

The chamber music coach directory is a listing of area professional musicians who specialize in chamber music coaching. We are not at liberty to publish their rates, but our subsidy for public concert performing ensembles covers the majority, if not all, of a two-hour coaching session. Selection and scheduling of coaches is the responsibility of the ensemble engaging the coach. Payment for services is directly between the selected coach and the ensemble. DCCM will reimburse public concert performing ensembles at our prevailing subsidy for one two-hour coaching session related to an upcoming performance upon presentation of proof of payment (image of check, receipts, etc.). Ensembles are responsible for costs above the current subsidy rate stated in our [Dues and Service Price Schedule](#) above. Please see [DCCM Coach Directory](#) for more information. We are constantly seeking to enlarge our directory of chamber music coaches, if you use, or know, or qualified professional musicians available to coach, please contact Info@DCCOS1.org to share such information.

Reimbursement for Subsidized Coaching Services

The ensemble member who pays the coaching fee must submit a digital copy of proof of payment to DCCM Management at ExecDir@DCCOS1.org. This may be an image of a digital payment receipt (such as Venmo) and **must** list the name of the payee, or a picture of a check (best taken **before** presentation of the check to the coach so that DCCM may reimburse you promptly).

Chamber Music Composer Diversity Resources

As part of its mission, DCCOS strongly encourages the presentation of works by underrepresented composers, and may, from time to time, sponsor DCCM public concerts focused on repertoire diversity. To assist ensembles in identifying suitable repertoire, DCCOS has developed a meta-directory of composer diversity resources, available [HERE](#).

Discounts and Complimentary Tickets

Please click [HERE](#) to see DCCM's current discounts and complimentary ticket offerings.

DCCM Performance Opportunities

DCCM presents three formats of performance opportunities:

- Fully staged public concerts
- Outreach performances
- Commercial gigs engaged through DCCM management (in development)

DCCM Public Concerts

DCCM stages five or six public concerts per season, spread out across the metropolitan region, many at historic venues. These occur on Saturday or Sunday afternoons, generally at 3:00 p.m. The season schedule will be announced on April 1, and applications for participation accepted six months in advance of each concert. For more information, see the Concert Application Procedure below. Event participation fees help DCCM provide a comprehensive, professional quality package of services for performing ensembles.

- Rent for accessible, quality venues with superior quality pianos, at locations generally convenient to public transportation or with generous public parking.
- High-quality, full color audience program booklets (keepsakes for musicians).
- Professional event advertising.
- Audiences with more than just friends and family of musicians in attendance.
- Professional chamber music coaching.
- Quality, captioned videos of all performances (more at [Pictures, Video and Audio](#)).
- Fully subsidized score and part acquisition for sponsorship eligible works by underrepresented composers.

For additional information on participating in DCCM Public Concerts, please see our Concert Application Procedure [HERE](#). Forms to request a performance slot are available on the member website.

Outreach Concerts

There are no fees associated with ensembles participating in our Outreach program. Outreach Events are DCCM's way of giving back to the community. We regularly collaborate with a number of local assisted-living and retirement communities, as well as shelters and charities, to provide their populations with opportunities to experience live performances of classical music. Outreach Events are tailored to suit our community partners and calls for performers will be sent out periodically via email. Information about our current Outreach venues is available [HERE](#).

Ensembles participating in such concerts may receive, upon request, up to two hours of coaching from DCCM's Artistic Advisor at no cost. Ensembles performing for the first time with DCCM must undergo screening and coaching by DCCM's Artistic Advisor. Outreach is an important part of DCCOS' mission, we welcome suggestions regarding communities which may benefit from our Outreach performances. If interested in participating, there is a link available on the [Member Website](#) to complete a form.

Commercial Gigs

As DCCM's reputation has grown, we occasionally receive inquiries about ensembles for hire. The specifics of such requests vary widely and cannot be adequately characterized here. For requests DCCM Management feels are appropriate and can be satisfied with DCCM resources, e-mails will go out announcing such opportunities. Watch for these.

Rehearsal Rooms

DCCM offers affordable hourly rental rates for rehearsal rooms at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Ave., NW., right near Metro Center. There are several rooms available, from small to very large, with and without pianos, from \$35/hr to \$50/hr., no minimum number of hours. These rooms are available

- Sunday afternoon 1:00 to 3:00 pm – all year long
- Thursday afternoon and evening, 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. (September to May)
- Sunday afternoons noon to 5:30 pm when DCCO is holding orchestra rehearsals
 - *Generally mid-September through mid-May.*

Please contact us at Info@DCCOS1.org to arrange a reservation. Please, DO NOT attempt to contact the church directly, they will in all likelihood not understand your request, or you may incur a liability for DCCOS of which management will be unaware.

Previously, DCCM negotiated with other facilities in the area for discounted rental rates, but demand for them was too low to justify the providers offering discounts. These facilities may be more convenient for you, or within your budget. You may contact them directly:

- Crescendo Studios, 8101a Lee Highway, Fall Church, VA
<https://www.crescendostudiosva.com/rehearsal>
VERY economical rates, pianos aren't always first class, but the variety of sizes of the rooms and options is excellent. NOT public transportation friendly, copious parking.
- Levine School of Music - Silver Spring Campus, 900 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring, MD
<https://www.levinemusic.org/about/locations/md-campus-silver-spring/>
State of the art facility, top tier Steinway and Boston grand pianos.
Fairly pricey, Metro convenient and public parking lots nearby.
- Levine School of Music – Northwest DC Campus, 2801 Upton St. NW, Washington DC
<https://www.levinemusic.org/about/facility-rentals/dc-campus-nw-rentals/>
Grand old building, mostly modest sized rooms, most with excellent pianos.
Cheaper than Silver Spring campus, lots of parking, modest walk from Metro.
- The Shed, 5650 Riverdale Ct., Suite Q, Riverdale, MD 20737
<https://www.thesheddmv.com/>
Rates \$32 to \$40 per hour except their largest rooms. Brand new facility. Limited piano options but lots of percussion gear - some included in the room, some for a fee.

Supporting DCCM

Financial Support

Annual dues and service fees do not cover DCCM's operational expenses. The vast majority of DCCOS's income comes from donations and grants. Grants vary from year to year, range widely in amount, and competition for funding is fierce. DCCOS, like all music organizations both community and professional, looks to members, their friends and family, concert patrons, and the board, to donate regularly and generously.

Donations may be made on the [Member Website](#). Individuals who have made *tax deductible* contributions of \$50 in the prior twelve months are acknowledged on our public website and in concert programs as follows:

- Bronze: \$100 - \$249
- Silver: \$250 - \$499
- Gold: \$500 - \$999
- Platinum: \$1000 or more

DCCOS particularly appreciates regular recurring donations which you can select when donating online. For donations via Donor Advised Funds or IRAs, please contact ExecDir@DCCOS1.org, in confidence. DCCOS can provide limited guidance on estate planning considerations.

DCCOS also accepts donations-in-kind, i.e. non-cash donations of goods, services and supplies. More information on in-kind donations is available [HERE](#).

Donations will be acknowledged shortly after receipt. Near the end of the calendar year, for total annual donations exceeding \$100, DCCOS management will send an official thank you, on letterhead, suitable for use as proof of a tax-deductible donation.

Know any businesses that could benefit by advertising in our concert programs, or might extend discounts or promotional offers to our audiences? Contact ExecDir@DCCOS1.org for more information and guidance.

Volunteering & Other Support

DCCOS is primarily a volunteer organization -- only the Music Director and Operations Manager are paid -- and there's a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes to successfully operate the organization. Every volunteer effort, no matter how small, is not only greatly appreciated, but very much needed. The areas DCCOS seeks volunteer support and a description of what's entailed, are provided [HERE](#).

Legal Stuff

Equal Volunteer Opportunity

It is the policy of DCCOS to grant equal volunteer opportunities to qualified persons without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran's status, marital status, or citizenship status. DCCOS will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship.

Terminology

DCCOS is a non-membership corporation, and participating musicians are not members of the corporation but are volunteers of the organization. As used within the *Musicians' Guides*, the use of the term "member" solely refers to participating musicians, who are volunteers, and is only used for convenience. As such, the use of the term "member" does not connote corporate membership with DCCOS.

Conduct

Participating musicians agree not to engage in inappropriate conduct at DCCOS-sponsored events, including but not limited to rehearsals and concerts. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to: use of alcohol or marijuana, or being under the influence of alcohol or marijuana; possession or use of an illegal drug or controlled substance, unless under the direction of a certified physician; the distribution, sale or purchase of an illegal drug or controlled substance; any form of verbal, physical, or emotional harassment or threats; violent behavior; misuse or theft of DCCOS assets. Violations may result in immediate suspension or dismissal of the musician at the discretion of the Board of Directors of DCCOS. *Exception: moderate alcohol consumption is permissible when provided by DCCOS as part of a social event, e.g. happy hour, pizza party, picnic, or concert reception.*

DCCOS respects participating musicians' rights to freedom of expression, and as a matter of practice, does not monitor the activities of its volunteers outside of DCCOS-sponsored events. However, representations made by participating musicians in any media - including but not limited to television, radio, print or social media - that may affect DCCOS (including its reputation, brand, or in any other manner) may be subject to review by the Board of Directors and be possible grounds for dismissal. Please bring any complaints or grievances to the attention of management or board members first.

No Opt-Out of Communications

Participating members of DCCOS sponsored events must consent to receiving operational e-mails and text messages from DCCOS. (You may opt out of promotional e-mails; we do not send promotional texts). Participating in DCCO events requires that we be able to reach you to properly manage such events. This is mostly e-mail, but may rarely be by text for exigent circumstances. Due to current system limitations, we are unable to prevent you from

opting out of these, but if you do, we may reset those unsubscribe requests. Repeated unsubscribes may be considered your intent to no longer participate and you may be marked inactive for all current and future activities. If so, you will need to contact us to be reinstated.

Pictures, Video and Audio

Regarding video recordings of DCCOS public performances, the official policy, describing the why, where, when and how performance recordings are digitally published, please click [HERE](#). Additional information regarding AV materials captured by DCCOS is described below.

By participating in DCCM events and concerts, you consent to your image and name being used on our websites, social media and for promotional material. DCCM does not geo-tag pictures or link names to social media handles. Event and concert participants are welcome to take personal pictures, audio and video for their personal consumption. We ask, out of consideration for your fellow musicians' privacy, that you refrain from geo-tagging your photos or naming individuals with social media handles without the permission of the individuals in the image(s). We encourage you to share recorded event media with our webmasters to help build our public presence.

Audio and video produced by DCCOS or posted to DCCOS websites are, or become, the property of DCCOS. They are there for the enjoyment of the membership. Personal audio and video recordings are for private sharing. Reposting to non-DCCOS websites is not permitted without the consent of DCCOS management. Caution re copyrighted works, publishers and composers monitor the internet for unlicensed postings of their intellectual property and may randomly prosecute.

Privacy, Security, Data Sharing and Disclosures

DCCOS is working with attorneys to finalize an official Privacy Policy to cover all musician members as well as other constituents of DCCOS (e.g. audience members and donors). It will be published to DCCOS' websites (member and public) in Q4 of calendar year 2025. Adjunct to this policy will be formal consent forms each member will be required to complete to participate in DCCOS programs.

Within the larger DCCOS community, selected data items may be disclosed to others through member-only directories, concert programs, websites, social media, and promotional material. The data items disclosed, and by what medium, are documented in a Data Sharing spreadsheet available [HERE](#).

The member website is private, accessible only to properly authorized members. DCCOS does not sell or share any of its constituent information with any organizations external to the parent organization DCCOS. Connections to our website are securely encrypted.